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# ARTICLES

AGREED UPON, BY AND BETWEEN

*Richard Oſwald*, Eſquire, the Commiſſioner of His *Britannic* Majeſty, for treating of Peace with the Commiſſioners of the United States of *America*, in Behalf of His ſaid Majeſty, on the one Part;

AND

*John Adams*, *Benjamin Franklin*, *John Jay*, and *Henry Laurens*, Four of the Commiſſioners of the ſaid States, for treating of Peace with the Commiſſioner of His ſaid Majeſty, on their Behalf, on the other Part;

To be inſerted in, and to conſtitute, the Treaty of Peace, propoſed to be concluded between the Crown of *Great Britain* and the ſaid United States; but which Treaty is not to be concluded until Terms of a Peace ſhall be agreed upon between *Great Britain* and *France*, and His *Britannic* Majeſty ſhall be ready to conclude ſuch Treaty accordingly.

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WHEREAS reciprocal Advantages and mutual Convenience are found by Experience to form the only permanent Foundation of Peace and Friendſhip between States; it is agreed to form the Articles of the propoſed Treaty on ſuch Principles of liberal Equity and Reciprocity, as that partial Advantages (thoſe Seeds of Diſcord) being excluded, ſuch a beneficial and ſatisfactory Intercourſe between the Two Countries

may be eſtabliſhed, as to promiſe and ſecure to both perpetual Peace and Harmony.

ARTICLE I^st^.

His *Britannic* Majeſty acknowledges the ſaid United States, *viz. New Hampſhire, Maſſachuſets Bay, Rhode Iſland*, and *Providence Plantations, Connecticut, New York, New Jerſey, Penſylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina*; and *Georgia*, to be Free, Sovereign, and Independent States; that he treats with them as ſuch; and for himſelf, his Heirs and Succeſſors, relinquiſhes all Claim to the Government, Propriety, and Territorial Rights of the ſame, and every Part thereof: And that all Diſputes which might ariſe in future, on the Subject of the Boundaries of the ſaid United States, may be prevented, it is hereby agreed and declared, that the following are and ſhall be their Boundaries; *viz.*

ARTICLE II^d^.

From the North Weſt Angle of *Nova Scotia, viz.* that Angle which is formed by a Line drawn due North from the Source of *Saint Croix* River to *The Highlands*, along the ſaid Highlands which divide thoſe Rivers that empty themſelves into the River *Saint Lawrence*, from thoſe which fall into the *Atlantic* Ocean, to the North Weſternmoſt Head of *Connecticut* River; thence down along the Middle of that River, to the Forty-fifth Degree of North Latitude; from thence, by a Line due Weſt on ſaid Latitude, until it ſtrikes the River *Iroquois* or *Cataraquy*; thence along the Middle of ſaid River, into Lake *Ontario*, through the Middle of ſaid Lake, until it ſtrikes the Communication by Water between that Lake and Lake *Erie*; thence along the Middle of ſaid Communication, into Lake *Erie*, through the Middle of ſaid Lake, until it arrives at the Water Communication between that Lake and Lake *Huron*; thence along the Middle of ſaid Water Communication, into the Lake *Huron*; thence through the Middle of ſaid Lake, to the Water Communication between that Lake and Lake *Superior*; thence through Lake *Superior*, Northward of the Iſles *Royal* and *Phelipeaux*, to the Long Lake; thence through the Middle of ſaid Long Lake, and the Water Communication between it and the Lake of the Woods, to the ſaid Lake of the Woods; thence through the ſaid Lake, to the moſt North Weſtern Point thereof, and from thence, on a due Weſt Courſe, to the River *Miſſiſſippi*; thence, by a Line to be drawn along the Middle of the ſaid River *Miſſiſſippi*, until it ſhall interſect the Northernmoſt Part of the Thirty-firſt Degree

of

of North Latitude;—South, by a Line to be drawn due East from the Determination of the Line last mentioned, in the Latitude of Thirty-one Degrees North of the Equator, to the Middle of the River *Apalachicola*, or *Catahouche*; thence along the Middle thereof, to its Junction with the *Flint* River; thence ſtrait to the Head of *Saint Mary*'s River, and thence down along the Middle of *Saint Mary*'s River to the *Atlantic* Ocean;—East, by a Line to be drawn along the Middle of the River *Saint Croix*, from its Mouth in the Bay of *Fundy* to its Source, and from its Source directly North, to the aforeſaid Highlands which divide the Rivers that fall into the *Atlantic* Ocean from thoſe which fall into the River *Saint Lawrence*, comprehending all Iſlands within Twenty Leagues of any Part of the Shores of the United States, and lying between Lines to be drawn due East from the Points where the aforeſaid Boundaries between *Nova Scotia* on the one Part, and *Eaſt Florida* on the other, ſhall reſpectively touch the Bay of *Fundy*, and the *Atlantic* Ocean; excepting ſuch Iſlands as now are, or heretofore have been, within the Limits of the ſaid Province of *Nova Scotia*.

## ARTICLE III.

It is agreed, That the People of the United States ſhall continue to enjoy, unmoleſted, the Right to take Fiſh, of every Kind, on the Grand Bank, and on all the other Banks of *Newfoundland*; alſo in the Gulph of *Saint Lawrence*, and at all other Places in the Sea, where the Inhabitants of both Countries uſed at any Time heretofore to fiſh; and alſo, that the Inhabitants of the United States ſhall have Liberty to take Fiſh, of every Kind, on ſuch Part of the Coaſt of *Newfoundland* as *Britiſh* Fiſhermen ſhall uſe (but not to dry or cure the ſame on that Iſland); and alſo on the Coaſts, Bays, and Creeks, of all other of His *Britannic* Majeſty's Dominions in *America*; and that the *American* Fiſhermen ſhall have Liberty to dry and cure Fiſh in any of the unſettled Bays, Harbours, and Creeks, of *Nova Scotia*, *Magdalen* Iſlands, and *Labrador*, ſo long as the ſame ſhall remain unſettled; but ſo ſoon as the ſame, or either of them, ſhall be ſettled, it ſhall not be lawful for the ſaid Fiſhermen to dry or cure Fiſh at ſuch Settlement, without a previous Agreement for that Purpoſe with the Inhabitants, Proprietors, or Poſſeſſors of the Ground.

## ARTICLE IV.

It is agreed, That Creditors on either Side ſhall meet with no lawful Impediment to the Recovery of the full Value,

in Sterling Money, of all *bonâ fide* Debts heretofore contracted.

ARTICLE Vth.

It is agreed, That the Congreſs ſhall earneſtly recommend it to the Legiſlatures of the reſpective States, to provide for the Reſtitution of all Eſtates, Rights, and Properties, which have been confiſcated, belonging to real *Britiſh* Subjects, and alſo of the Eſtates, Rights, and Properties, of Perſons reſident in Diſtricts in the Poſſeſſion of His Majeſty's Arms, and who have not borne Arms againſt the ſaid United States; and that Perſons of any other Deſcription ſhall have free Liberty to go to any Part or Parts of any of the Thirteen United States, and therein to remain Twelve Months unmoleſted in their Endeavours to obtain the Reſtitution of ſuch of their Eſtates, Rights, and Properties, as may have been confiſcated; and that Congreſs ſhall alſo earneſtly recommend to the ſeveral States, a Reconſideration and Reviſion of all Acts or Laws regarding the Premiſes, ſo as to render the ſaid Laws or Acts perfectly conſiſtent, not only with Juſtice and Equity, but with that Spirit of Conciliation, which on the Return of the Bleſſings of Peace ſhould univerſally prevail; and that Congreſs ſhall alſo earneſtly recommend to the ſeveral States, that the Eſtates, Rights, and Properties of ſuch laſt mentioned Perſons ſhall be reſtored to them, they refunding to any Perſons who may be now in Poſſeſſion the *bonâ fide* Price (where any has been given) which ſuch Perſons may have paid on purchaſing any of the ſaid Lands or Properties ſince the Confiſcation.

And it is agreed, That all Perſons who have any Intereſt in confiſcated Lands, either by Debts, Marriage Settlements, or otherwiſe, ſhall meet with no lawful Impediment in the Proſecution of their juſt Rights.

ARTICLE VIth.

That there ſhall be no future Confiſcations made, nor any Proſecutions commenced againſt any Perſon or Perſons, for or by Reaſon of the Part which he or they may have taken in the preſent War; and that no Perſon ſhall on that Account ſuffer any future Loſs or Damage, either in his Perſon, Liberty, or Property; and that thoſe who may be in Confinement on ſuch Charges, at the Time of the Ratification of the Treaty in *America*, ſhall be immediately ſet at Liberty, and the Proſecutions ſo commenced be diſcontinued.

ARTICLE

ARTICLE VII^th.

There ſhall be a firm and perpetual Peace between His *Britannic* Majeſty and the ſaid States, and between the Subjects of the one and the Citizens of the other; wherefore, all Hoſtilities, both by Sea and Land, ſhall then immediately ceaſe: All Priſoners on both Sides ſhall be ſet at Liberty, and His *Britannic* Majeſty ſhall, with all convenient Speed, and without cauſing any Deſtruction, or carrying away any Negroes, or other Property of the *American* Inhabitants, withdraw all his Armies, Garriſons, and Fleets, from the ſaid United States, and from every Port, Place, and Harbour within the ſame, leaving in all Fortifications the *American* Artillery that may be therein; and ſhall alſo order and cauſe all Archives, Records, Deeds, and Papers, belonging to any of the ſaid States, or their Citizens, which, in the Courſe of the War, may have fallen into the Hands of His Officers, to be forthwith reſtored and delivered to the proper States and Perſons to whom they belong.

ARTICLE VIII^th.

The Navigation of the *Miſſiſſippi*, from its Source to the Ocean, ſhall for ever remain free and open to the Subjects of *Great Britain*, and the Citizens of the United States.

ARTICLE IX^th.

In caſe it ſhould ſo happen, that any Place or Territory belonging to *Great Britain*, or to the United States, ſhould be conquered by the Arms of either, from the other, before the Arrival of theſe Articles in *America*, it is agreed, that the ſame ſhall be reſtored without Difficulty, and without requiring any Compenſation.

Done at *Paris*, the Thirtieth Day of *November*, in the Year One thouſand Seven hundred Eighty-two.

RICHARD OSWALD, (L. S.)

JOHN ADAMS, (L. S.)
B. FRANKLIN, (L. S.)
JOHN JAY, (L. S.)
HENRY LAURENS, (L. S.)

Witneſs,

*Caleb Whitefoord*,
Secretary to the *Britiſh* Commiſſion.

*W. T. Franklin*,
Secretary to the *American* Commiſſion.

# COPY

OF

# PROVISIONAL ARTICLES

Signed at *Paris*, *November* 30th, 1782, by the Commiſſioner of His *Britannic* Majeſty, and the Commiſſioners of the United States of *America*.

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1783.